(ii) Staff has been deputed to begin the Extension Counter in Sircilla.

(iii) A Team has been sent from the South Indian Textile Research Association (SITRA) to provide technical assistance to the above Extension Counter.

(iv) The Powerloom Export Development Council (PEDEXCIL) has taken action for the enrollment of members to set up a Powerloom Centre Development Committee (PCDC) in Sircilla.

Losses of JCI

434. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Jute Corporation of India (JCI) has been incurring huge losses;

(b) if so, since when;

(c) the reasons for the losses; and

(d) the details of steps taken to improve the performance of Jute Corporation of India particularly in assisting the Jute growers and creating adequate marketing facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) and (b) The Jute Corporation of India (JCI), Kolkata has been incurring losses since 1977-78.

(c) The main reason of the accrued loss has been the fact the JCI has to conduct Minimum Support Price operations on behalf of Government of India for procurement of raw jute. Since, MSP operations are not conducted every year, huge work force and infrastructure of JCI adds to the loss.

(d) The Government strengthened the JCI by providing budgetary support and by providing bank guarantee to the tune of Rs. 33 crores

to avail credit to the tune of Rs. 99 crores for conducting MSP/ Commercial operations. Apart from its 171 centers, the JCI also makes arrangements with Co-operative Societies to procure raw jute to help the jute growers.

Setting up a separate yarn depot at Sircilla

435. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:
SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether in order to ensure timely supply of cone yarn for the powerloom weavers at Sircilla, the National Textile Corporation has agreed to set up a separate yarn depot at Sircilla;

(b) whether it has been proposed that the yarn will be supplied to weavers at the gate price;

(c) whether the technical team of NTC visited Sircilla to identify suitable premises to locate the yarn depot;

(d) whether Government have also agreed for concession in sales tax on the yarn to be supplied through NTC depot; and

(e) by when this depot is likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) Yes Sir, as a special case, NTC has set up a separate yarn depot at Sircilla.

(b) The yarn is being supplied to the weavers at Depot price.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) State Government has agreed in principle to grant exemption of Sales Tax.

(e) The depot has already started functioning w.e.f. 1.6.2001.